INFORMATION ONLY

25X1

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY
OFFICE OF CURRENT INTELLIGENCE
17 APRIL 1953

REMOVAL OF PAKISTANI PRIME MINISTER AND CABINET

Governor General Ghulam Mohammad's 17 April request for the resignation of Prime Minister Nazimuddin and his cabinet demonstrates that the most strong-minded elements in Pakistan, including the Governor General, the Defense Secretary, the Commander in Chief of the army, the Governor of Sind province, and the Chief Minister of Northwest Frontier province, have decided finally to end the weakness which has characterized Nazimuddin's government during the past year.

It also represents a clear-cut effort by the Governor General and his supporters to establish Pakistan as a secular state and to curtail the power of religious groups, whose recent agitation against the proposed Pakistani constitution and Foreign Minister Zafrullah Khan has resulted in riots and political confusion. In taking his action, Ghulam Mohammad is probably strongly supported by the civil service and the army.

The new cabinet, which is to be announced almost immediately, should be similar to the old, with Zafrullah Khan retaining his post. Industries Minister Nishtar and Commerce Minister Rahman, who are aligned with orthodox religious forces, may be ousted along with Nazimuddin.

Pakistan's foreign policy will continue to be Western-oriented, since the individuals who apparently motivated the change of government are all pro-Western. There may even be increased demonstrations of pro-Americanism accompanied by stronger efforts to win membership in MEDO and to obtain more American military and economic aid. In the immediate future, however, the new cabinet can do little to improve Pakistan's internal economic situation beyond streamlining the ministries which must combat the prospective food shortage and ominous financial situation.

25X6